President.—If they make fabulous demands amounting to Rs. 8,00,000, as in this year, how is the demand to be met? So that we have to exercise discretion in the matter. Provisions are made for such of the items as are urgently to be attended to. The Panchayat members will do well to send their estimates sufficiently early, so that the work can be started and completed early in the year, without allowing the amounts to lapse.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the reminders be placed on the table?

President.—He is not ready with all those papers here. It will take some time; for these papers are at Trichur, and he will have to get them down.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It will take only two days. At least before the end of this session he can get them down. I am only asking for reminders sent to this particular Panchayat.

President.— The question does not arise.

Nomination of Members to Panchayats.

12 **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the rules now governing the nomination of members to the Village Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There are no special rules governing nomination of members. The qualifications which one should possess to be nominated as a member are laid down in the notifications, dated 13th June 1921 and 17th August 1921, referred to in the answers to questions 195 (c) of the budget session of 1101 and 170 of the legislative session of 1102. The notifications are still in force.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have the Government considered the advisability of changing the rules now in force?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is being considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When was it first taken up for consideration?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It has been under consideration from the commencement of this year (1102).

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Was not this matter brought to the attention of the Government before the current year?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes; certain proposals were submitted to the Government, and they are being considered.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Did not the commencement of consideration begin from that date?

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President.—You said the matter was being considered from the commencement of 1102. The further question was whether the attention of the Government was not drawn to this before the commencement of 1102. Then you said 'Yes'. Then, did not the commencement of consideration begin at that time?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We cannot say that the proposals were actually before the Government before 1102. There have been some references on the subject; that is all.

President.—When did the proposal come up before the Government for consideration?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Some time last year the question came up for the consideration of the department, and these proposals were submitted to the Government in the beginning of this year, and, therefore, there were no proposals before the Government before the commencement of this year.

President.—You must speak a little louder; otherwise we won't be able to hear you.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—In answer to question No. 196 of the budget session, 1101, the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats said that he would consider this question.

Coffee, tea, etc., plantations in the State.

13. **Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) the number of coffee, tea and rubber plantations in the State;

(2) whether proper accommodations are provided for the coolies working in the plantations;

(3) is there any officer in the State to inspect those cooly colonies; if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report of the officer from 1098 to 1102;

(4) what were the most prevalent diseases in each of the colonies during 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100 and 1101;

(5) the total number of coolies in each of the estates in the years 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100 and 1101;

(6) the death rates in those estates for the years 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100 and 1101?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(1) *Vide Appendix V.*

(2) Yes, so far as Government are aware.

(3) There is no officer to inspect these cooly colonies.

(4) Malaria, diarrhœa and dysentery.

(5) and (6) A statement giving the information available is appended. (*Vide Appendix VI.*)

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